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**Letters of Harrison Gray and Harrison Gray, Jr.,  
of Massachusetts.**

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(From originals in the collection of the Virginia Historical Society.)

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[Harrison Gray, receiver-general of Massachusetts for some years prior to the Revolution, was a loyalist, and his estate was confiscated. In 1776, at the evacuation of Boston by the British troops, he went to Halifax, and thence to London. He died in England. His daughter Elizabeth married Samuel Alleyne Otis, and was mother of the eminent Harrison Gray Otis.

Harrison Gray, Jr., also a loyalist, was proscribed and banished. John Gray, "Jacky," was, on his return from the voyage referred to in the letters, captured off Newburyport, and for a time, imprisoned. He was in London in 1781.]

HARRISON GRAY TO GIDEON LYMAN.

Boston, Dec<sup>r</sup> 29th, 1760.

Sir—You may remember that Col. Pomroy had a warrant on me for billeting his Comp<sup>s</sup>, amount<sup>s</sup> to 133, 6, 8, w<sup>ch</sup> ~~of~~ his order was paid to you, now Sir you must know that I have paid to Twenty-four of the men their wages, including the billeting,

among whom was Colo. Pomroy,\* who ought to know better than to have rece'd it, his billeting was 2, 18, 5, the others were 2, 10, 3<sup>d</sup> each. I have enclosed you a list of their names, if you have not paid them I must desire you to stop it, & those whose wages were p<sup>d</sup> to Messrs. Hudson, you'll pay the billeting to them as they have accounted with me for it. this mistake was owing to the blunder of the person who made up the role.

S', Your Servant,

HARRISON GRAY.

Gideon Lyman, Esq.

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HARRISON GRAY TO ———.

Boston, May 3, 1763.

S<sup>r</sup>—Our good Friend Dr. Mayhew † tells me that he has sent you by this Conveyance his Observations on the Charter & Conduct of the Society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts, &c. The Doc'r has done himself great Honor by writing this piece. I think I never knew any performance of a Controversial nature meet with so general approbation & applause, excepting among some bigoted high Churchmen, who most sincerely Curse it—Gentl<sup>m</sup> of the best sence & learning here think that the Doc<sup>r</sup> arguments are conclusive, and I can't but think that its being reprinted in London & dispersed among the Dissent<sup>rs</sup> will be of Iminent service to the dissenting Interest, they will no longer be gull<sup>d</sup> out of there money to Support Episcopacy in America. The performance is as sudden & as the Dr. had several corrections, & in his Correcting the press, the main Argument being what Chiefly engaged his Attention, he let several immaterial errors escape his notice, And in page 54 he has mentioned Portsmouth & it should have been Newport, which you

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\* Colonel Seth Pomroy, a distinguished Massachusetts officer during the French and Indian War, and elected brigadier-general by Congress, at the beginning of the Revolution. He died in service, at Peekskill, N. Y., February 19, 1777.

† Dr. Jonathan Mayhew, of Boston, distinguished as a preacher and controversialist, and an ardent patriot. He died in 1766.

will be so good as to Correct if it should have an impression with you.

My Compliments to your Brother and believe me to be with the utmost sincerity,

Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant,

H. G.

If the Doc<sup>r</sup>s observations should be reprinted will you be so good as to send me 50 Copies & I will with pleasure see you paid.

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HARRISON GRAY TO JASPER MAUDUIT.\*

Boston, November 26, 1763.

Sir—Your kind favour ~~of~~ Capt. Bruice I rece<sup>d</sup> & am obliged to you & your Brother for the notice you have taken of Capt. Hallowell. The bearer hereof, Mr. Tho. Russell, having had a good mercantile education, has accumulated a considerable sum in a few years residence at Guardelupe. He is son to the Hon. James Russell, † Esq., one of his Majesties present Council of this Province & as his business calls him to Great Brittain, I can with the utmost sincerity recommend him to your notice. He is a young gent<sup>l</sup> of great modesty, strict virtue & Integrity, agreeable to my last advice of the 7th Inst.

I now send you a packet w<sup>ch</sup> Mr. Russell will deliver you in which are four copies of Dr. Mayhew's Vindications of his observations thereof which you will deliver to the Gentlemen to whom they are respectively Directed, with my Compliments. The other you'l give a place among your valuable pamphlets. This performance of the Dr.'s is highly approved of here, not only by Dissenters but by the moderate ch. men, I hope it will do good among you.

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\*The agent for Massachusetts in England; author of several pamphlets, which were reprinted in the first series, Massachusetts Historical Collections.

† James Russell, member of the Massachusetts council, was a loyalist. He was the ancestor and namesake of James Russell Lowell.

I offer my sincere Compliments to your Bror. Jno.

I do myself the Hon<sup>r</sup> to subscribe

Your most Humb<sup>ble</sup> Serv.,

H. G.

[Endorsed.]

Copy of the letter sent to Jasper Mauduit, ~~to~~ Capt. Hunter,  
Nov. 26, 1763.

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HARRISON GRAY TO GOVERNOR HUTCHINSON.\*

[August 2, 1775.]

Sir—As the bearer hereof, my youngest son can give you a particular account of the battle of Bunker's Hill and of the present situation of our Army, I shall content myself by saying it was a complete victory over the Rebels. However two or three such Victories would ruin the British Army—And had the Navy given that assistance to the Army that Admiral Montague would have afforded had he commanded, not a Rebel would have escaped. As this goes by the way of Liverpool no doubt your excellency will have later news than I can give you, therefore shall not enlarge at this time, but may here after do my self that honor.

My son's departure from home was sudden, several gents. of the Council have hired a Brig belonging to my son Lewis to go to Ireland for a load of provisions to prevent their starving the ensuing winter, and Jacky, by the advice of his friends, has taken this opportunity to see the world, and tells me he shall go from Liverpool to London to spend a few days, which is the occasion of my troubling you with this scrawl. Any notice your Exc'y may take of him will be gratefully acknowledged by your

Sincere friend & most Humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

H. G.

[Endorsed.]

Copy of a Letter to Gov<sup>r</sup> Hutchinson, Aug<sup>t</sup> 2, 1775.

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\*The well known Thomas Hutchinson, Governor of Massachusetts, loyalist and historian.

HARRISON GRAY TO ———.

[Draft.]

[August 20, 1775.]

Sir—As I formerly had the honor of a Correspondence with you, you will excuse the freedom I now take in addressing you.

My eldest son, the bearer hereof, who has been with me in the office for upward of fifteen years, is capable of giving you a particular account of the situation of our army. No doubt long ere this reaches your hand you will have heard of the battle of Charlestown, where the British army attained a complete Victory over the Rebels. [The preceding was erased.]

This will be delivered to you by my son who is capable of giving you a particular acc't of the situation of our army.

In recommending my son to your notice, who is a young gentleman capable of giving you a particular account of the unhappy situation of our public affairs, I shall not therefore trouble your honor upon that point but shall only beg leave to say that I would heartily wish that the Boston Port act was repealed, provided it could be done consistent with the Honor & dignity of Parliaments, for however salutary that act was when it was first made, our public affairs have since taken such an unexpected & different turn that a strict adherence to it serves only to co-operate with the Rebels to starve & ruin the friends of Government who reside in Boston.

Any particular notice you shall take of my son will be acknowledged with great gratitude by him who has the honor to be,

H. GRAY.

[Endorsed.]

Aug. 20, 1775.

HARRISON GRAY TO COLS. JOSEPH JACKSON AND  
JOHN GRAY.

Boston, March 7, 1776.

Gentl:

As I have appointed you my attorneys I do not doubt you will consult my Interest as if your own. Mr. Otis' furniture was under the care of Col<sup>o</sup> Murray who lived in Mr. Goldthwait's

House in the North End. You will take care that they be returned to Mr. Otis upon his arrival at Boston. I have in my House loaf sugar which you may take at 10<sup>d</sup> pr. pound Lawful. I have also by me near a bb. of pork, & a barrel of beef, which you may take & allow me what you think proper, as I have left Katey who has been very faithful, to take care of my furniture. In case Mrs. Otis should return & should be inclined to go into the House, I would direct you to let Katey have a bed and the furniture of one room. The negroes I would have you act as you think will be most to my Interest. They have each of them wives in Town, & their conjugal affection is so great that they decline going with me. If there any families that want them it would be advisable to let them take them.

God Bless you my Dear Brothers.

H. GRAY.

Cols. Jackson & John Gray, Esq.

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HARRISON GRAY TO A BROTHER.

Halifax, April 2nd, 1776.

S<sup>r</sup>—I have the pleasure to inform you that we arrived safe here on the 29th march, after a very agreeable passage of four days from Nantasket, in good Health & Spirits. Sukey behaved exceeding well and has recommended herself to the esteem of all the passengers. I do not remember that ever I enjoyed my health better than I have in this short voyage. I have not had the least syptoms of seasickness and I am now under no more concern in passing the Atlantic than I formerly was in passing Winnipmit Ferry—we are all well accomodated by my worthy friend Mr. Fenton, who discovers every mark of Civility and respect that is in his power, nothing is wanting on his part to make us easy and comfortable—and here I should be extremely wanting in points of gratitude If I did not let you know that Miss Fenton, a young Lady of about 16, who has been favored with a very polite education, and one that is behind very few if any in regard to Beauty, good sense and all the accomplishments that are necessary to render a young Lady agreeable, I say, if I did not let you know that this *Phoenix* of the age exerts herself to make us happy. I wish my son Jack was here with four or

five thousand pounds sterl\* in his pocket, for I do assure you it would afford me high pleasure to call her Daughter. The General has promised us a ship to carry us to London but when we shall get away is at present uncertain, Tho am in hopes we shall sail in all May. As this letter may probably never reach you, it is a sufficient apology for my not enlarging and my not writing to my Dear Brother John, and my only & beloved Daughter, Mrs. Otis—please to give my affectionate Love to them both, and let them know that when I arrive in London, a land of Liberty, I shall write them fully, and speak my mind as freely as Doc' Eliot\* in a late letter of his, to his friends in London, says he shall, now the troops have left Boston. I think the Doc' is too sudden in his declaration for the harness is not yet put off—and it is a Just observation that a man should never Hollore till he is out of the woods. I am sorry that Gentleman, by the letters above alluded to, has taken so much pains to prove the Duplicity of his conduct in the late trying Times. Those who were intimately acquainted with him think there was no occasion for it. I cannot say that I am one of that number, For I always had till now a high opinion of his honesty. You will be so good as to remember me to Sister Hughes, Miss Nancy and my Dear Grand Daughter Betsey, let them know that I have rec<sup>d</sup> since I have been here several letters from my son Harry and one from Polly, They were both well, let my Dear Daughter Otis also know it, there were letters also for Mrs. Hughes, Nancy & James, which her son Samuel took up, but I must not enlarge my love to my Dear sister Jackson to sister Green and to the Maj'—not forgetting my love to my grand children, my compliments to all enquiring friends. Remember me in particular to Dr. Byles.†

I am, with Love and esteem, Your Bro',

H. G.

P. S. Sukey presents her Duty to you & her Mammar, & love to her Brothers.

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\* ? Dr. Andrew Eliot (1718–1778), a prominent clergyman of Boston.

† A prominent Boston clergymen, and a loyalist. His political beliefs caused a severance from his parish, but he remained and died in Boston.



## HARRISON GRAY, JR., TO HARRISON GRAY.

London, Sep. 22, 1775.

Dear &amp; Hon. Sir:

Its with pleasure that I now embrace this opportunity to inform you of my safe arrival at London after a passage of 28 days, most of which was attended with heavy gales of wind and squals at N. W. We struck soundings at 22d, and arrived at Dover the 27th, all in perfect good health, notwithstanding we had many difficulties to encounter by ruff & tempestuous weather, we had the dead lights in 6 days, the sea frequently broke over us but through the goodness of Providence nothing material happened, but a little washing. My dear little spouse was the best she sailor the captain says he ever saw, she was able to eat her allowance every day; she intends writting you by the next Opportunity. I am much thiner than when I left Boston oweing to the agitation of my mind with respect to the unhappy situation of my dear friends & nearest connections. God grant that something may take place to settle the unhappy difference, but I see no probability of it. I am not able to give you any accounts of London, as I have been arrived only three days. I can only say that it is a world within itself, the continual noise and confusion of the city is such that was I possessed of Millions on Condition of living in it, I would reject it for a small pittance in retirement. we landed at Graves End, which is twenty miles from London; the Country we passed through on our way to London is not to be discribed by me so as to give you any Idea of it, therefore shall not Attempt it, as I am noted always for being on the superlative, but the Garden of Eden could not exceed it. Upon my arrival I found Gov. Hutchinson out of town and also M. Mauduit, the former of which is since come to town and made us a visit, and is exceedingly polite & Genteel & expressed great satisfaction to see us & was you to meet him I am confident you would not know him he is so Entirely metamorphesed; I have had no conversation with him upon public matters nor with anybody since my arrival, as it is a subject they chuse to avoid, all conjectures are left until parliament meets which is next month. To my great surprise as I was walking

yesterday on the Exchange, who should I meet but my Brother Jack. I was astonished at first & could not believe my own Eyes as it was so unexpected & Sudden. I immediately conducted him to my Lodgings to see his Sister. He arrived last Evening from Liverpool, intends going back next Wednesday, this is Friday. He tells me he had a very blowing passage of 42 days. Contra. winds obliged him to put into Cork prior to his going to Liverpool & by a vessel bound from thence to Boston he has shipped you two sheep & some other things which I hope will arrive safe. The vessel will require some repairs at Liverpool which will Occasion some little delay for a few days; he expects to sail from Cork by the 12 of October. Please to inform my Brother Lewis I shall agreeable to his request, get insurance made accordingly & shall write him by next opportunity, which will be next week; please to present my duty to Mrs. Hughs & my love to my dear little girl & please to let her know I shall send her some things next week, her Mother is so very uneasy about her that she enjoys but little satisfaction. Altho she is in so gay a world, I could almost have wished that I had brought her with us. I have not time to copy this as the vessell will sail in two hours, therefore you must excuse this ruff draught, and Hon<sup>d</sup> Sir, in the mean time, be assured that all the judgment, prudence and frugality that can be made use of in this expensive place shall be put into execution by, dear Sir,

Your ever dutiful and obliging Son,

HARRISON GRAY, JUN.

N. B. Mr. Waldo\* lodges in the same House with me and is equally concerned in the expence, his judgment & prudence is conspicuous to all that have the pleasure of his acquaintance, he desires his best respects in which Judge Sewall begs to join.

To Harrison Gray.

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\* Either Francis Waldo, of Falmouth, Maine, a loyalist, whose estate was confiscated and sold, or Joseph Waldo, who was a member of a club of American loyalists in London, in 1776.

## HARRISON GRAY, JR., TO HARRISON GRAY.

London, Oct. 6th, 1775.

Dear & Hon<sup>d</sup> Sir:

I wrote you last week by a Transport in which I gave you an account of my arrival, with some particulars of the Voyage, since which my whole time has been taken up at the Custom House to get my things ashore, and the difficulties I met with was a Sufficient trial of Patience. I am at present at Lodgings in Suffolk street near Charring Crossing, where I propose staying but a few days owing to the Continual Noise of the City together with a heavy thick air; Judge Sewell has taken a house at Bromton about 5 miles in the Country, which is a most delightful Situation, with a fine pure air. There is several lodgings very near him, one of which I believe we shall take for Six months, Mr. Waldo intends living with us so that we shall be able to make a little frugal society of fugitives. Gov<sup>r</sup> Hutchinson & family are particularly attentive to us & have experience<sup>d</sup> their politeness every day since our Arrival. We made a visit to Mr. Green's yesterday, where we met with Mr. J. Boylston,\* who appears very formal & after some time did vouchsafe to enquire after you, but the manner in which he did it was very disgusting, he is a flaming Son of Liberty and abuses all that don't think with him. Mrs. Green is in a very declining state & he very low spirited. In my last I made mention of the Arrival of Jack in London & the day before last he went off in the Coach for Liverpool to take passage for Cork; he expects to sail from Cork by the 10th Octo<sup>r</sup>, so that I am in hopes he will escape a winter passage & bring with him every necessary that you may stand in need. I commit him to that kind providence for protection who commands the winds to blow & the waves to cease. I have had but little conversation with Gov<sup>r</sup> Hutchinson upon politicks but he seems very Certain of one thing, which made

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\* John Boylston left Boston in 1768, and resided until his death in 1791, in London and Bath. During the Revolution he rendered many services to American prisoners in England. He left a fund for the education of poor children of Boston, which some years ago amounted to \$100,000.00.

me very uneasy, & that is he is clearly of an opinion the troops at Boston will be with drawn this winter and embark for newport, which if should take place, tho God grant it may not, what will become of you, my Dear Sir, and the rest of my friends, unless Government provides for you, which Gov. H. assures me will be done. The Parliament meets this month which will determine every thing with respect to America. Present appearances are that the Warr will be pushed on vigorously, as the nation was never more united notwithstanding what is said to the contra. in the newspapers which are loaded with falsehoods & lies, full equal to American ones, every principal manufacturing town in the Kingdom have as much Business as they possibly can attend to, so that the americans can have nothing to hope for from that quarter, they are nothing more than a drop in the bucket and some of the principals would think so if they were present, the deluded part are to be pitied. I have not yet seen Mr. Mauduit, he is expected in town this week. I imagine by the time this reaches you the news of the Removal of admiral Graves you'll have heard of, and I dare say it will afford as much satisfaction to the people with you as it does in general to the people here. His successor is admiral Sheldon. I was introduced to him yesterday at my Bankers; his appearance is much against him, he sails in six days, by whom I shall write. Gov. H. informed me this morning that orders was sent last Thursday to Ireland for the five regiments that was to have embarke<sup>d</sup> for Boston, to embark for Quebec; this alteration is in Consequence of some accounts from General Carlton, who I imagine is doubtful of his Situation. I have presented my bills for acceptance and succeeded. I shall take advice how to dispose of my money to the most advantage when I receive it. Your situation as one of his majesties Council and the rest of your brethren is well known to administration and nothing is been wanting in me to paint your situation and the rest of my friends in its true Color and I am not without hopes that some good Effect will arrive from it.

Please to let Brother Lewis know that I have wrote him by this opportunity, and also My Uncle John. My dear Wife de-

sires her Duty, and Mr. Waldo his Compliments. Having nothing further at present but to deplore your unhappy situation,

Remain, dear sir, your Dutiful Son,

HARRISON GRAY, JUN'R.

To Harrison Gray, Esq.

### Notes from the Council and General Court Records

1641-1672.

BY THE LATE CONWAY ROBINSON, ESQ.

(CONTINUED.)

Genl. Ct. Judgements and orders 1664 to 1670, commenced "at a General Court held at James City, the 22d day of November, 1664." Names of governor and council, of whom Miles Cary was one. Court sat morning and afternoon.

1664, Nov. 22d. P. 1. Major General Mannering Hammond<sup>4</sup> having occasion to go to England, three years further time allowed him to seat his land.

[Nov. 23d, and succeeding dates, commissioners and sheriffs of various counties appointed, but no names are given.]

P. 5. Judgment for killing a horse, for less than half the value, altho' act of assembly directed treble.

5. Case remanded to Lancaster court with direction to take care that the jury can write.

Nov. 24. P. 6. Com[mission] from the King confirming comm. of Thos. Stegg as aud. genl. read in open court (Com. in previous book).

P. 7, 8. Judgements by default at preceding general court now confirmed (defendant not appearing).

P. 8, 9. Interpreter to live near Pamunkey Indians.

P. 9. Surry commissioners [censured?] for not building stocks, prison and pillory.

26. P. 11. Judgement for a filly.

P. 12. Collectors of several rivers to purchase powder.